

FAA Background Information Regarding U.S. Civil Aviation in Specified Portions of the Moscow (UUWV) and the Rostov-Na Donu Flight Information Regions (FIR) (URRV)

Russia's military force mobilization in occupied Crimea and along the Russia-Ukraine border, increased ceasefire violations along the established line of contact in eastern Ukraine, and heightened political rhetoric have the potential to further escalate tensions in the region and increase potential risk to U.S. civil aviation operations. The FAA advises U.S. civil aviation to exercise extreme caution when flying into, out of, within, or over the airspace described in Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) KICZ A0012/21 due to the potential safety-of-flight risks associated with escalating regional tensions between Russia and Ukraine, which could potentially result in no-notice cross-border skirmishes, increased military activities, and/or conflict. The situation is increasingly unpredictable, with substantial forces forward-deployed, including advanced long-range anti-aircraft-capable weapon systems. The potential for human error, miscalculation, or potential deliberate cross-border action could endanger civil aviation.

Over the past few months, there have been an increasing number of ceasefire violations in eastern Ukraine, particularly near the line of contact bordering the Russian-controlled area. In addition, by March 2021, Russia had deployed additional military capabilities, including ground, tactical air, and air defense equipment to occupied Crimea and in close proximity to the Russia-Ukraine border. Jamming and electronic warfare activity may also occur in the region, which could affect aircraft navigation and/or communications systems. Additionally, Russia recently announced its intent to close certain parts of the Black Sea, including areas near the Kerch Strait, which separates occupied Crimea from Russia, threatening Ukrainian maritime activity in, into, and out of the Sea of Azov. Ongoing Russian military exercises within the Moscow (UUWV) and the Rostov-Na Donu FIRs (URRV) near the Russia-Ukraine border further add to regional tensions. Overall, circumstances in the region present an increased potential inadvertent risk to civil aviation operations, due to the potential for miscalculation and/or misidentification in the Russia-Ukraine border region, as seen with the inadvertent shoot down of Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 (MH-17) over Ukraine in July 2014.

While the predominant civil aviation risk concern is for airspace over or near the line of contact in the adjacent Dnipro FIR (UKDV) and the Crimean Peninsula in the Simferopol FIR (UKFV), there is also concern for the entirety of the Russia-Ukraine border region.

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